



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAYS IN COMMERCIAL OCCUPANCIES

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

With the holiday season nearing, the State Fire Marshal wishes to remind business people of the legal way to display Christmas trees. State Fire Marshal V. J. Bella says that legally adopted state fire codes require commercial occupancies to comply with the following Christmas tree display regulations:

If artificial trees are to be used, only trees that are labeled as flame-retardant are permitted, Mr. Bella explains. Approved electrical lighting is permissible he adds. "Approved" means tested by a national testing laboratory such as Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).

If a live tree is to be used, Mr. Bella says that there are three (3) legally acceptable possibilities:

1. A "cut" tree that has been treated with an approved flame-retardant flocking material.
2. An untreated tree that has been installed no earlier than three weeks before it is to be taken down.
3. An "uncut" tree with its roots still attached.

Approved lighting can legally be used on either an "uncut" tree or a "cut" tree that has been treated with a flame-retardant material. Approved lighting CANNOT be used on "cut" trees that have not been treated with a flame-retardant material except in a fully automatic sprinklered building.

The State Fire Marshal has no legal jurisdiction in one (1) or two (2) family dwellings, but Mr. Bella recommends these requirements for those dwellings also.

Questions about this release should be made to the local State Fire Marshal's office or to the local Fire Department or Fire Prevention Bureau.

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